

A special message to the women: Let's suit up. Let's square our shoulders. Let's put our lipstick on and fight for equal pay that won't be stopped. We are going to do it. We are going to fight today, and we are going to fight tomorrow, and I am combat ready.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TESLA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a week ago last Thursday, Tesla, a major company in America, announced that Nevada would be the new home to its gigafactory, which would produce lithium batteries for Tesla's electric cars. Just a few days later, Nevada's State legislature unanimously approved the incentive package to finalize a new economic boost for Nevada.

Tesla's gigafactory will spur economic development in Nevada. All told, the state-of-the-art manufacturing center is expected to pump \$100 billion into Nevada's economy and create up to 22,000 jobs.

This development is good news for Nevada, but it didn't happen by accident. It is the direct result of public-private partnerships and smart Federal and State policies. It is the result of Nevada being seen as a hub for renewable energy and innovative technologies. This project, as big as it is, will be powered with solar and geothermal. Nothing else will power this big project.

I have worked here in the Senate to promote legislation that encourages investment in clean energy and transportation innovation at all levels. In 2007, we passed the Energy Independence and Security Act, which created the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program. Under this program, the Department of Energy awarded a \$465 million loan guarantee to Tesla for the construction of a manufacturing facility in California. The question everyone has is: Was that loan a successful investment in Tesla?

The facts speak for themselves. Tesla repaid the loan in full 9 years early. Tesla is the company it is today because of this loan.

The availability of lithium, which ultimately helped attract Tesla to Nevada, also has its roots in Federal legislation. In 2009, with the economy in a deep recession and thousands of Nevadans losing their jobs, we passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—better known as the stimulus. There were many good things for Nevada and the country in that stimulus legislation. For example, millions for education, millions for renewable energy development, and tax breaks for the middle class.

Also in the stimulus was a program to incentivize advanced battery manufacturing. Through this program, a \$28.4 million grant was awarded to Rockwood Lithium of Nevada, which would help to expand and improve the only operating domestic lithium facility in the country. It is located near the historic mining town of Goldfield, a place called Silver Peak. Nevada only has 17 counties. Esmeralda County, where this is located, has less than 1,000 people. So this mine is really important for our country. We are the only lithium mining facility in America.

Because of the stimulus, Tesla will have access to lithium mined in Nevada, as I indicated, for production of these batteries. But in order to truly promote innovation, we must as a Congress create opportunities for consumers to invest in new, advanced technologies, and we haven't done that. We need more tax incentives for that.

In 2008, we encouraged Americans to invest in the growth of the electric car industry through a tax credit of up to \$7,500 for the purchase of qualified electric vehicles. We expanded that credit in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009 to ensure that while Americans recovered from the recession, we did so by investing in new technology that would produce lasting economic growth.

Tesla's investment in Nevada shows what is possible when public-private partnerships and smart Federal and State policies are encouraged. In the 21st century, this is how public-private partnerships should work, and it is so important to realize that through these grants, loans, and the private sector, working with States such as Nevada and California and the Federal Government, we were able to accomplish this.

This is a blueprint for success. Federal, State, and local leaders must clear obstacles that stymie innovation and incentivize cleaner technologies. We must make it easier for industry to invest in our communities, not just in Nevada but all across America.

As Elon Musk, the genius who has done SpaceX, PayPal, Tesla, and so many other things, said just the other day:

What the people of Nevada created is a state where you can; where you are very agile, where you can do things quickly and get things done. It's a real get-things-done state.

I want the RECORD to be spread with my public appreciation on behalf of all Nevadans to Governor Sandoval. His patience and diligence made this possible. I congratulate him because the work he did here was terrific.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, and that during this period of time Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNLV'S TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 21st annual Take Back the Night event at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV.

The event is one of UNLV's oldest traditions. Hosted by the wonderful Jean Nidetch Women's Center, this event has done an amazing job of raising awareness about sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence including dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Take Back the Night is a worldwide event, and UNLV's branch has received numerous awards over the years. For instance, 2 years ago, as well as this year, the UNLV branch won the "Outstanding Collaborative Program" award; and in 2008, it won the "Outstanding Annual Program/Tradition" award.

Research has shown that college age women are at the highest risk for all forms of violence. According to the recent report released by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, the risk of sexual assault is 4 times higher for women ages 16 to 24 than any other population group. One assessment showed that more than one-half of the campus population knows at least two people who have been victims of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking. Programs and events such as Take Back the Night importantly help provide survivors and victims with information about the services and options available to them.

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center has made Take Back the Night a capstone annual event at UNLV to give victims and survivors a place to seek advocacy and assistance. The center hosts public events in hopes of engaging students who may not otherwise seek help. It is an exceptional resource for a crucial issue that harms our society and campuses not only in Nevada, but around the country.

I commend the Jean Nidetch Women's Center and the entire UNLV campus for their commitment and dedication, and I look forward to learning about their future contributions to this important issue.

APPRENTICESHIP AND JOBS TRAINING ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the Apprenticeship and Jobs Training Act, legislation

that I have introduced with my colleague Senator CANTWELL. Few issues are as important to the American people as the availability of good jobs in our communities. Unemployment in Maine and across the country remains unacceptably high. We must continue working together to identify ways to improve job training initiatives to help people find jobs in fields where jobs exist.

I have met with many business owners in Maine who have jobs available but cannot find qualified and trained workers to fill these vacant positions. One way for employees to acquire the skills needed to thrive in in-demand fields is through apprenticeship programs. Apprentices get hands-on experience that is invaluable to employers and can help workers secure a good-paying job.

According to the Congressional Research Service, approximately 44,000 individuals graduated from apprenticeship programs in 2013 nearly 1,000 of those individuals were from Maine. However, that number is likely insufficient to meet tomorrow's needs. One manufacturer in Maine estimates that nearly 2.7 million manufacturing employees are expected to retire in the next decade. We must do all we can to ensure that an adequate pool of skilled workers is available to fill these good-paying jobs.

Our bill helps achieve this goal by giving tax credits to businesses that hire apprentices. To ensure that workers are given adequate time to prove their value, the apprentice must be employed for 7 months in order for a business to claim the credit. Our bill also provides incentives for experienced workers who spend at least 20 percent of their time passing their hard-earned knowledge on to the next generation. These workers would be allowed to receive some retirement income early, without facing tax penalties. Finally, our bill ensures that the brave men and women who defend our country are given credit for the skills they learn while serving. Training received while serving in the Armed Forces would count toward an apprentice's training requirement.

This bill would help better align the needs of our Nation's employers with potential employees to promote hiring and the creation of new jobs. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I am pleased to join Senator CANTWELL in introducing it.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr President, I wish to recognize a noble Missourian, the spirited and courageous Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman. Fifty years ago today, this body confirmed Mrs. Freeman as President Lyndon B. Johnson's choice to be the first female Commissioner to serve on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She served honorably in this capacity for 16 years, hav-

ing been reappointed by Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

By the time President Johnson first nominated Mrs. Freeman to the Civil Rights Commission, she had worked tirelessly to end racial discrimination and secure equality, justice and fairness for every citizen. Born Marie Frankie Muse on November 24, 1916 in Danville, VA to parents who experienced the benefits of formal education and who in turn supported their daughter's educational pursuits, Frankie was educated in Virginia and attended college at the distinguished and well-known historically black college Hampton University. Almost 10 years after she started college, Frankie began her law school career at Howard University School of Law, where she graduated second in her class. Soon afterward, Frankie settled in St. Louis, MO, and began her successful career as a civil rights attorney. She worked on a variety of important civil rights issues ranging from education to hiring practices. Most notably in 1954, Frankie argued and won the fight against racial discrimination in public housing in the landmark NAACP case Davis et al. v. St. Louis Housing Authority. The following year, Frankie became the first associate general counsel of the St. Louis Housing Authority and Land Clearance Authority. Three years later in 1958, she joined the Missouri advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The quality and breadth of her work combined with her passion for advocacy eventually led to her selection as a U.S. Civil Rights commissioner.

In the five decades since her historic appointment, Frankie's energy and devotion to justice has not diminished. She has received appointments from former Presidents to serve on other service-related commissions. In addition, she worked as a municipal court judge for many years and was instrumental in the formation of the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights, an organization that seeks to ensure the Federal Government's vigilance in its enforcement of anti-discrimination laws. In addition to this public service, Frankie wrote a book about her storied life and career. Just 6 years ago at the age of 92, she retired after spending the latter part of her career in private practice. Not surprisingly, even retirement has not slowed Frankie down. She remains active on a number of urban and community service-based social welfare boards.

To countless residents of my State and across the country, Frankie Muse Freeman is a hero. She is a woman who grew up in Jim Crow-era South when racial segregation was legal. Growing up, if Frankie wanted to go somewhere, her options were to either walk or take the segregated streetcar. She witnessed first hand the harsh consequences of racial inequality and she chose to devote her entire career to ending that injustice. Frankie is an inspiration to

so many Americans, across all racial lines, and to me personally. She is a public servant whom my children and grandchildren can look up to. Because of leaders like her, who fought and sacrificed but ultimately believed in our country's ability to empathize and change, we are all better off and our lives more enriched.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Frankie Muse Freeman on the 50th anniversary of her Senate confirmation to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In addition, I ask my colleagues to recognize Frankie's distinguished service to the people of this country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEAL'S CAFÉ 70TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. I wish to celebrate 70 years of down-home cooking at Neal's Café in Springdale, AR.

Opened in 1944 by Toy and Bertha Neal, the restaurant is currently run by the family's fourth generation. Over the last 70 years, Neal's Café has been one of the most popular dining spots in northwest Arkansas.

Neal's is not just known for its menu of delicious comfort food. It is also a popular gathering spot for locals to catch-up and discuss family life, politics and the Razorbacks chances on the football field this week.

It is hard to miss the pink exterior of Neal's Café as you drive down N. Thompson Street. When you park your vehicle and step inside Neal's, the unique décor of the restaurant and the aroma of fried chicken immediately hit you. While fried chicken is among the most popular dishes at Neal's Café, visitors come from far and wide for the homemade pies as well.

Neal's Café is so much more than a restaurant. It is an integral part of the Springdale community. The Neal family has worked relentlessly to make it that way.

As someone who has experience starting a family business, I know how challenging of an endeavor it is to get off the ground, much less be successful to the level that the Neal family has been for the past 70 years. It is a testament to the family's commitment to quality, service and dedication to the community.

As the Neal family celebrates 70 years of operating Neal's Café, I would like to extend my wishes for many more years of serving food and fellowship at their Springdale institution.

I look forward to stopping by for some fried chicken and a slice of coconut cream pie very soon. •

TRIBUTE TO JAY AND MARY SAUNDERS

• Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, each year, I have the honor of recognizing outstanding parents who have chosen to adopt as Angels in Adoption. I am